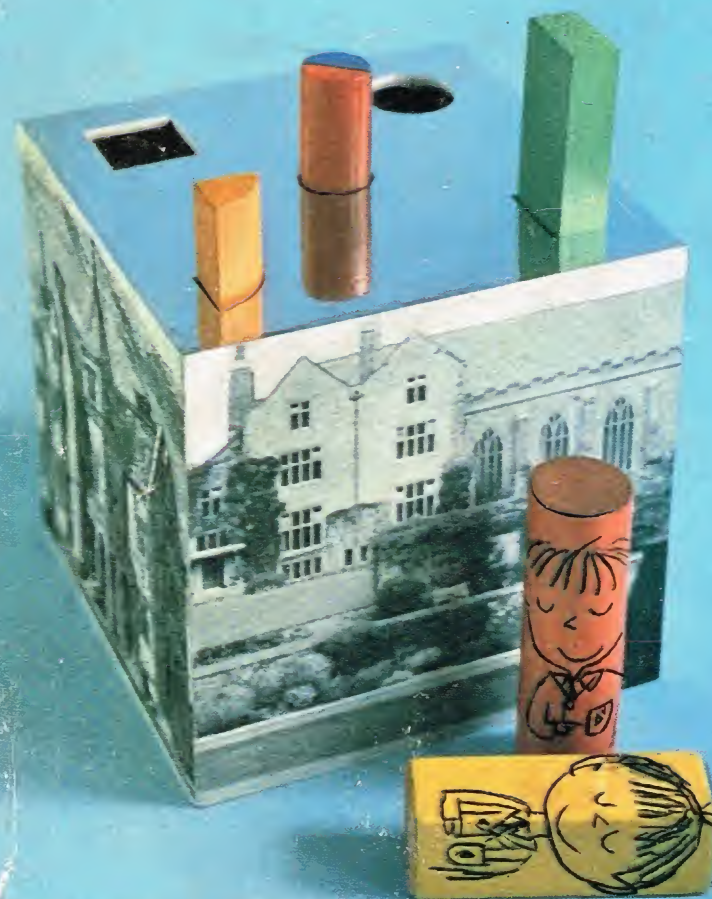




a Pelican Original

# English Progressive Schools

Robert Skidelsky





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The progressive schools – Abbotsholme, Dartington Hall, Bedales, Gordonstoun, Summerhill and others – seem to owe their public fame more to notoriety than to serious study of their educational aims. Yet, within the scholastic world, they have exercised a decisive influence on educational policies both in Europe and the United States.

A modern historian makes a thorough examination in this Pelican of the ideas which have motivated the English Progressive School movement in this century, of what they are genuinely trying to achieve and the difficulties they meet. Taking the lives and writings of three of the principal pioneers – Cecil Reddie, A. S. Neill, and Kurt Hahn – he places their educational innovations in the historical and social context within which they have worked.

On one level Robert Skidelsky's book is a history of educational ideas; on another, an outline of the cultural setting which has brought partial acceptance – but above all – and this gives it direct human appeal – it is a sympathetic portrait of three extraordinary men.

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